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# ISD Taught Tricks At Army Spy Base

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Staff Reporters

Members of the Baltimore Police Dept.'s super-secret Inspectional Services Division (ISD) have been taught the most sophisticated methods of breaking into houses, offices, cars and safes by military intelligence personnel, and in some cases, CIA instructors, according to authoritative sources.

The training occurred at Ft. Holabird, the Army's former intelligence center, during the late 1960s and early 1970s, sources said.

One of The News American's sources is a former Army intelligence field agent who had first-hand knowledge of ISD police trained in top secret "technical" courses at the military installation.

Another source is a former operative of ISD who under-

went the training and said a pre-graduation field exercise was "breaking into somebody's house to plant a bug or take pictures and get out without being caught. It didn't matter whose house."

"The idea was you'd be able to put all this training into use in ISD," he said.

As reported by WBAL-TV, the Baltimore grand jury probing ISD's activities has heard testimony concerning alleged illegal breaking and enterings by agents of the police spy unit.

Reliable sources have told The News American that "hand-picked" members of ISD would be sent to Holabird for the military or CIA training, which always was "unofficial" because of the top secret nature of the classes and potential embarrassment to the government.

The former agent said, "There is no doubt we went beyond the limit. We weren't heading for the Big Brother era; we were right there."

According to the ex-agent, ISD policemen entered the Army's Defense Against Methods of Entry (DAME) course.

"The military explained that in order to defend against entries, you had to know how to execute them. ISD police were taught how to 'bypass' an entrance, usually a door, get what you wanted, and get out without leaving evidence you were ever inside."

The source explained that "bypass" meant breaking and

entering.

The former agent — before he graduated from the DAME course — was ordered by his superiors to undertake one particularly ironic exercise — breaking into the inner ISD office.

"I got through the front door at the old police headquarters," the source said. "I bypassed the locked office door of Lt. William Rawlings (then second in command of the spy group), opened the safe, photographed the contents and got out. They didn't know what hit them."

A former ISD member said, of that episode "Well, we were just amazed when they informed us about what they had done. The game was reversed and we were embarrassed as hell."

Rawlings, now a major in the Internal Investigation Division, refused to comment.

Sources said the DAME course — classes in electronic surveillance, spy photography and espionage technique — were taught by active military personnel, retired Army intelligence experts and "civilians" brought in by the Central Intelligence Agency.

"CIA had a liaison office right on post," the former Army spy said. "They were always ready to recruit, always ready to stuff their files. They were just always ready."

As reported here earlier, ISD workers closely with the

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# Snoop Training for ISD

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CIA, FBI, Armed Forces intelligence units and other U. S., metropolitan and county spy squads.

"The Baltimore police had access to our (military intelligence) files," the former military agent said. "Often, the military intelligence detachment at the Custom House downtown would exchange information with the police. It was always on a 'need to know' basis and never anything official."

The ex-Army agent, who requested that his identity not be published, said he was often used by his commanding officers because of his special skills in breaking and entering.

"I would sometimes put on demonstrations for students, generals and visiting VIPs where I would break through three door locks and a night chain. I usually could do it under two minutes and force would never be a factor."

He said that government spies had parabolic microphones which could pick up conversations blocks away "and they were developing laser beam equipment that could go through windows and record voices."

He said that military agents often posed as newsmen to gather information. He said that during the 1968 political demonstrations in Chicago, a spy team went in as a news crew with camera equipment, a van loaded with electronic gear and microphones.

"A training film developed

from that episode," he said. "There were army spies acting as newsmen and interviewing Dick Gregory, Rennie Davis and others . . . They were quite proud of that one although none of the persons interviewed revealed any intelligence the government could use."

He also recalled a confidential request from the Army chaplain command which asked that a list of books and authors be "checked" for reading by army personnel.

"Some other agents and I spent a great deal of time reading these books and looking into the authors' private lives. One of the writers had an earlier dossier left over from the McCarthy era. That information, as outdated and questionable as it was, had to be forwarded to the chaplain command."

Although he never engaged in illegal activities once he was permanently assigned to Army Intelligence, the former agent said that arrest by local police if caught in an embarrassing situation was never feared.

"If anyone were arrested we had a control number to call and we would be out of jail in the morning . . . no questions asked."

By the late 1960s, the ex-agent said, "everyone was into domestic intelligence. The military alone had approximately 5,000 card-carrying agents. The whole concept mushroomed, expanded. It got to the point you just had to produce. We called it job justification."

He cited two humorous inci-

dents where the military "overcovered" during the civil rights and anti-war years.

During one protest in Washington, the intelligence command at Holabird was receiving "spot reports" on a teletype machine from agents on the scene.

"To show you the mentality," the ex-agent said, "a report came across the machine that about 20 persons were congregating beneath the Washington Monument. About two minutes later the same agent reported back 'They are now facing east.'"

On another occasion, a new lieutenant colonel who normally worked in artillery was watching the intelligence coverage of Martin Luther King's funeral come in over the teletype machine.

"Suddenly, a report came in about a small detail and the agent sending signed off with 1215 EST, a reference to military time.

"The colonel got red in the face and pounded his fist on the machine and shouted 'I want every goddamn agent to get a watch . . . I want them to have watches because I'm tired of this estimated time.

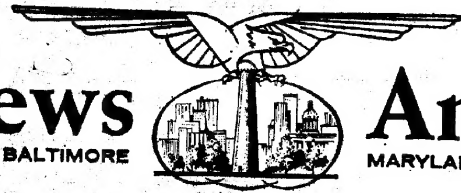
"The colonel thought EST meant estimated time. As he later learned, I hope, it means Eastern Standard Time."

It is not known if the city grand jury investigating ISD activities has heard testimony relating to Ft. Holabird training.

The panel is looking into allegations first published in The News American that ISD conducted widespread surveillance and dossier compilation on political figures, clergy, newsmen and non-subversive organizations.

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# Army Admits Teaching City Police Spy Tactics

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# Training 'Unofficial'

## Pentagon Disputes Pomerleau's Denial

● See story on police spying  
on Page 1B.

An Army spokesman at the Pentagon confirmed that a number of Baltimore policemen attended technical courses on spying at Fort Holabird in the late 1960s, further substantiating a report in Sunday's News American.

Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau denied that any men under his control attended classes at the installation, once the Army's leading instruction center for intelligence work.

The Pentagon source confirmed that members of the police department's Inspection Services Division (ISD) were taught sophisticated methods of breaking into houses, offices, cars and safes by military intelligence personnel.

The confirmation came after questioning by The Associated Press.

The spokesman told The AP the Army doesn't have official records of the men trained, but that "based upon recollections from Army personnel assigned to the intelligence school, several members of the Baltimore Police Department were trained in Defense Against Methods of Entry (DAME) at Fort Holabird."

A former ISD operative told News American reporters Michael Olesker and Joe Nazzari that a pre-graduation exercise was breaking into a house to plant electronic surveillance equipment or take pictures without being caught.

ISD members trained "unofficially" because of the top secret nature of the classes and possibility of embarrassing the government, a former U.S. Army intelligence agent told The News American.

The former agent broke into the inner ISD office at the old police headquarters as his pre-graduation exercise, he said.

He described how he bypassed a locked door leading to the office of Lt. William Rawlings (then second in command of the ISD group), opened the safe, photographed the contents and got out again.

"They didn't know what hit them," he said.

The DAME course includes instruction in breaking and entering under the assumption that a student who knows how to enter an office without detection should be able to prevent others from doing the same, according to a former Army intelligence spokesman.

Student spies were given assignments such as crossing the Baltimore harbor in a rubber dinghy, slipping onto the guarded base, infiltrating the school building and escaping undetected, according to former students.

Some instructors gave lock-picking and surreptitious entry demonstrations to groups of military wives and other non-students.

Army intelligence field units were responsible for conducting military security clearance investigations until the fall of 1972.

Much of the investigations consisted of checking police records and asking local police and neighbors about GIs needing clearances, according to former Army intelligence personnel.

"The Baltimore police had access to our files," the former field agent said.

"Often the military intelligence detachment at the Custom House downtown would exchange information with the police. It was always on a 'need to know' basis and never anything official."

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